



# The Safety Expressway

## Highway safety grants awarded to police agencies statewide

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McCracken County Sheriff's Office

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has awarded more than \$2.3 million to police agencies across the state to help bolster safety enforcement in local communities.

"Local law enforcement agencies are critical in the effort to keep Kentucky highways safe," said Transportation Secretary Joe Prather. "These grants will

help provide needed resources to improve safety in local communities across Kentucky."

About 90 agencies statewide will receive funding to support enforcement efforts aimed at intoxicated driving, seat belt usage and speeding. The Kentucky State Police will receive funding for its Nighthawk program to combat alcohol intoxication and for speed enforcement.

"I know from my experience in law enforcement that having the right tools is essential to helping keep our communities safe," said Chuck Geveden, executive director of the Office of Highway Safety. "This funding will help police to combat the violations that so often lead to death and destruction on our roadways."

The funding is provided through the enacted federal transportation bill, which includes support for local safety enforcement programs nationwide.

A complete list of grantees can be found starting on page 60 of the 2009 Highway Safety Performance Plan at [http://highwaysafety.ky.gov/files/strategic\\_plan/HSP\\_FY2009.PDF](http://highwaysafety.ky.gov/files/strategic_plan/HSP_FY2009.PDF)



Mayfield Police Department (above)



Frankfort Police Department (left)





**Executive Director Chuck Geveden**

## Executive Director's Message

The holidays are just around the corner, which means gatherings with family and friends, good food, and for some people too much alcohol.

The season between Thanksgiving and New Year's is one of the deadliest and most dangerous times of the year due to an increase in impaired driving. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 992 people were killed last year in the month of December due to crashes involving a driver or motorcycle rider with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher.

As highway safety advocates, we are responsible for educating the public of these dangers. I urge you to inform your friends and family that driving while impaired is not worth the risk. We want to prevent motorists from ending their year in an arrest—or even worse, death. Encourage smart decisions such as designating a sober driver or calling a taxi. Remind everyone that wearing a seat belt is not only the law, but is the best defense against a drunk driver.

In addition, we support those enforcing the laws of the road. The issuance of grants recently distributed by Gov. Beshear included over \$2.4 million in funding specifically for local law enforcement to curb impaired driving. We thank those in uniform spending endless hours keeping our roads safe.

As you begin your celebrations, please remember that we at the Office of Highway Safety hope you stay safe and 'Drive Smart' this holiday season.

## Totals for the Drunk Driving, Over the Limit, Under Arrest campaign held Aug. 15-Sept. 1

Law Enforcement Agencies	Total in State	Participating This Period	Reporting This Period
State Police / Patrol Districts	26	26	26
County Sheriffs / Police	124	107	77
City / Town Police	211	180	143
Other	13	11	11
<b>Totals</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>257</b>

DWI Arrests	Safety Belt Citations	Child Safety Citations	Felony Arrests	Recovered Stolen Vehicles	Fugitives Apprehended
1,902	5,299	259	1,576	91	1,411

Suspended Licenses	Uninsured Motorists	Speeding	Reckless Driving	Drug Arrests	Other Traffic Offenses
1,601	4,314	12,273	531	1,622	15,949

# Third annual Child Passenger Safety Month in Kentucky is a success!

Three out of four child safety seats are improperly installed in vehicles, according to research by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). That's why the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet drove home the importance of child passenger safety with a month-long campaign to emphasize proper child safety seat usage.

Although National Child Passenger Safety Week is Sept. 21-27, the cabinet's Office of Highway Safety extended awareness through the entire month, celebrating Kentucky's third Child Passenger Safety Month. Certified safety seat technicians partnered with local technicians in 10 cities across Kentucky during September to conduct free child safety seat inspections. Technicians checked over 100 seats for proper installation and recalls and provided other child passenger safety tips including information on the new booster seat law.



**Officer Greg Reams with Commercial Vehicle Enforcement installs an infant seat base in Mt. Vernon.**

Gov. Steve Beshear signed legislation in April requiring children younger than seven and between 40 and 50 inches tall to be secured in a booster seat. The bill requires law enforcement officers to issue "courtesy warnings" for violations until 2009, after which there will be a \$30 fine. In addition, violators will have the option to purchase a booster seat instead of paying the fine.

For the first time during Child Passenger Safety Month, a technician renewal course and technician certification course were held in partnership with the Marshall County Health Department. The renewal course held on Sept. 8 recertified former technicians, while the certification course Sept. 9-12 trained highway safety professionals to become certified technicians.

To find a certified technician in your area visit [www.safekids.org/certification](http://www.safekids.org/certification). To view a listing of recalled car seats visit [www.carseat.org](http://www.carseat.org).



**Jennifer Kotzbauer, a technician with the Boone County Sheriff's Office, works with parents in Florence on properly installing seats for their two children. One of their seats had to be replaced due to a recall.**

**Erin Eggen, technician instructor with the Office of Highway Safety instructs a parent on properly fitting the harness straps, which were too loose when they arrived, during the event in Florence.**



**Gov. Beshear, surrounded by child safety seat technicians and highway safety advocates, signs a proclamation declaring an emphasis on child passenger safety in Kentucky during September.**



**Erin Goin (left), technician instructor with the Office of Highway Safety works with Evie Paschall, technician instructor with the Marshall County Health Department, at the car seat check in Benton following the technician certification class.**





# October 10 declared national ‘Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day’



What's the leading cause of death among those age 6 to 33? Traffic crashes. Someone – a parent, child, grandparent, friend – is needlessly killed on our nation's highways every 12 minutes.

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's (KYTC) Office of Highway Safety joined forces with organizations around the nation to attempt to reduce that statistic, and Gov. Steve Beshear declared Oct. 10 "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day." The goal is a day without traffic fatalities. As is the custom throughout the year, KYTC's Office of Highway Safety conducted events during the week to promote safer driving practices.

In Kentucky, one fatality occurred this past Oct. 10, compared to two fatalities in 2007.

For more traffic safety tips and information, log on to the Put The Brakes On Fatalities Day® Web site at [www.brakesonfatalities.org](http://www.brakesonfatalities.org).



Students at Jackson City School learn the importance of buckling up during a Rollover Simulator demonstration by Jack Hutchinson.



Seniors at a Mature Drivers presentation at the Casey County Senior Citizens Center show off UK basketball calendars provided by the KY Office of Highway Safety. Each calendar asks Big Blue fans to 'Buckle Up Kentucky!'



Steve Bowen shows students at Rodburn Elementary School the proper way to wear a helmet during a bicycle safety demonstration.

## R-U-T: A little word with big consequences

Deer breeding season is here, also known as rut. November is the peak month for vehicle-deer collisions, and a new analysis of insurance claims and federal crash data indicate the problem is growing. The Highway Loss Data Institute, an affiliate of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, recently examined claims for animal strikes under comprehensive coverage by month from January 2005 through April 2008. Findings determined that animal collision claims are nearly three times higher in November than other months.

The following tips may help to prevent a crash or minimize the damage if a collision is unavoidable:

- Deer often travel in small groups so if you see one, slow down and be alert for others.
- Deer tend to "freeze" when confronted with an oncoming vehicle so flash your high beams and honk your horn to break its concentration.
- Stay in your lane. Most fatalities stemming from deer-related crashes involve drivers swerving to miss the deer and hitting a stationary object.
- Always drive defensively and wear your seat belt!





# Impaired Driving

Impaired driving is recognized as driving a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or any other narcotics. In Kentucky in 2007, a total of 6,339 alcohol related crashes were reported, resulting in 219 deaths and 3,628 injuries. These crashes resulted in more than \$343 million in economic costs and millions more in losses to the quality of life.

## Top Five Kentucky Impaired Driving Laws

### .08 Alcohol Concentration

- Alcohol concentration means either grams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood or grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath.
- A person's alcohol concentration can be measured through a blood test (BAC) or through a breath test (BRAC). If the test measures .08 or above, the person is legally impaired.

### Zero Tolerance

- It is illegal for persons under 21 to drive with a BAC of .02 or higher.
- 35% of all fatal crashes for underage drivers involve alcohol.\*

### High BAC (Blood Alcohol Concentration)

- Refers to a driver with a BAC of .15 or higher at the time of the arrest.
- High-BAC offenders require additional sanctions and treatment that "normal" DUI sanctions cannot provide.
- 58% of alcohol-related fatalities involve someone with a .15 BAC or higher.\*

### Open Container

- It is illegal for occupants to have an open container of alcohol in the vehicle.
- Prevents a driver from passing the alcohol to a friend or putting it in the back seat when pulled over.
- States see a 5.1% decrease in fatal crash rates after passing an open container law.\*

### Repeat Offender

- Repeat offenders are those who have two or more impaired driving offences.
- Creates enhanced penalties for subsequent offenders.
- About one-third of all DUI arrests each year are people who have previously been convicted of a DUI.\*

## Did You Know?



- **IMPAIRED** means your ability to think clearly and to react appropriately isn't fully functional.
- **DRUNK** means being visibly impaired such as staggering or slurring your speech.
- **INTOXICATED** is a legal term, reflecting the amount of alcohol in a person's blood.
- You can be **IMPAIRED** by alcohol and other drugs long before you become **INTOXICATED** or **DRUNK**.
- The American Medical Association says your ability to drive is **IMPAIRED** at .04 or .05 BAC.
- At low levels of **INTOXICATION** you can "feel" more competent to drive than you did before you started drinking. This is a false security.

\*Source: MADD: Mothers Against Drunk Driving



## Definition Of A Drink

- A 12-ounce beer or wine cooler
  - A 5-ounce glass of wine
- A straight or mixed drink made with 1 1/2-ounces of 80-proof liquor
- A straight or mixed drink made with 1-ounce of 100-proof liquor
  - A shot of any straight liquor

## Definition Of Binge Drinking

- Four or more drinks in a sitting for women
- Five or more drinks in a sitting for men



The metabolism of alcohol takes place in the liver. The body can burn approximately 1/2 ounce of alcohol in one hour. The liver eliminates approximately 90-percent of the alcohol from the body. The rest is eliminated through the lungs, perspiration, and urine. A cold shower or cup of coffee will not sober you up. The only thing that works is time! If you drink alcohol or take other impairing substances, **DO NOT DRIVE!**

## Alcohol Myths And Facts

**MYTH:** Beer doesn't affect my driving as much as other alcoholic drinks.

**FACT:** A glass of beer contains the same amount of alcohol as a glass of wine or average cocktail. Alcohol is alcohol—it's just packaged differently!

**MYTH:** Alcohol won't affect me much if I have something to eat.

**FACT:** Drinking on a full stomach may slow the progress of alcohol into the bloodstream, but overall is not much different than drinking on an empty stomach.

**MYTH:** Alcohol can't hurt me, except for giving me a huge hangover.

**FACT:** Large amounts of alcohol can do major damage to your digestive system. It can hurt your heart, liver, stomach, and other critical organs as well as taking years from you life. If you drink enough fast enough, you could die within a matter of hours.

**MYTH:** Drugs are a bigger problem than alcohol.

**FACT:** Alcohol and tobacco kill more than 50 times the number of people killed by cocaine, heroin, and every other illegal drug combined.

## Get The Keys: How You Can Intervene



- First try using a soft and calm approach. Suggest they've had too much to drink and it would be better if someone else drove or they took a cab. Make light of it.
- If it's a stranger, speak to their friends so they may persuade them to hand over the keys.
- Locate their keys while they are preoccupied and take them away.
- Tell them if they insist on driving you are not going with them. Volunteer to call someone else or a cab. Make it sound like you are doing them a favor.

### For Additional Information:

- AAA Exchange: [www.aaapublicaffairs.com](http://www.aaapublicaffairs.com)
- AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety: [www.aaafoundation.org](http://www.aaafoundation.org)
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD): [www.madd.org](http://www.madd.org)
- NHTSA Stop Impaired Driving Program: [www.stopimpaireddriving.org](http://www.stopimpaireddriving.org)
- The USAA Educational Foundation: [www.usaaedfoundation.org](http://www.usaaedfoundation.org)

# 511 Traffic and Travel Information is new and improved

The Division of Incident Management is the lead agency for the Conditions Acquisition Reporting System (CARS) and 511 Traffic and Travel system. When operators in the Transportation Operations Center receive highway incident reports from various agencies, details are entered into the CARS computer system. CARS then sends the information to the 511 telephone system and 511 web site. It also sends data to the kiosks at all rest areas and welcome centers.



The old 511 system created nearly 10 years ago was effective in getting real-time information to travelers in the Commonwealth. However, the antiquated system was in need of enhancements as new technologies became available. The Division of Incident Management worked with Northrop Grumman, Inc. for the last six months on updating the entire system to what is now known as Next Generation 511.



Operators receive calls and monitor traffic situations 24 hours, seven days a week in the Traffic Operations Center (TOC).

“Next Gen 511” went live on Oct. 16 and is more user-friendly. For example, it uses mile points and exit numbers versus the old system of landmarks such as overpasses and crossroads, making it easier for the average traveler not familiar with the area. It also utilizes new text-to-speech technology to aid motorists in navigating the menu. Additional enhancement are scheduled within the next few months.

Another exciting improvement is the new 511 web site in beta version at <http://transportation.ky.gov/511/beta/index.asp>. The Transportation Cabinet’s Office of Information Technology made great strides in giving the old 511 web site a face-lift by improving the graphics and utilizing a more user-friendly Google overlay.

The Division of Incident Management strives to provide timely and accurate information to the traveling public and we are certain these new systems will be a great improvement. Please utilize 511 before or during your travels. If you have any comments or concerns on how the system is operating please contact William McLemore at [William.McLemore@ky.gov](mailto:William.McLemore@ky.gov) or Jeff Bibb at [Jeff.Bibb@ky.gov](mailto:Jeff.Bibb@ky.gov), or call 502.564.2080.

Drive Smart and know before you go with 511!

## Total SAFE Patrol numbers (through Oct. 15, 2008)

Motorists Assists	15,954
Tagged Abandoned Vehicles	5,244
Traffic Control at Crash Scenes	954
Calls entered into Computer Aided Dispatch system	22,474





# Teen Driver Safety Week helps fight No. 1 cause of teen deaths: car crashes



Brad Franklin instructs students at Frankfort High School on the dangers of impaired driving with the Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Simulator.

The Transportation Cabinet reached out to young drivers and passengers in a national effort aimed at reducing deadly crashes, the No. 1 killer of teens. The cabinet's Office of Highway Safety joined the "Ride Like A Friend" campaign during National Teen Driver Safety Week, Oct. 19-25, to promote safer behaviors for young drivers.

Studies indicate teens who drive with other teens as passengers run a higher risk of having a fatal crash. The risk is doubled with one passenger and increases with each additional passenger. Other research has shown that simple mistakes often attributed to driver inexperience are a major cause of teen crashes.

"We hope to encourage teenagers to use good judgment in the vehicle," said Chuck Geveden, executive director of the Office of Highway Safety. "With over 120 drivers and passengers age 20 and younger killed last year in Kentucky, we must remind young people that practicing safe driving and riding habits could save lives."

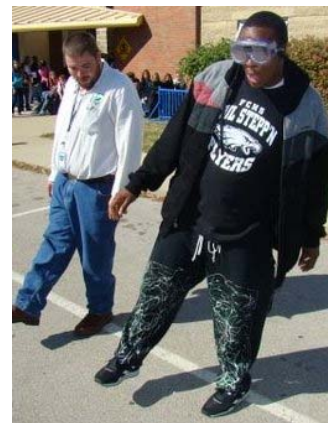
"Ride Like A Friend" included activities in schools and communities across the Commonwealth that illustrated ways that teen passengers can reduce the potential for crashes, such as limiting distractions and avoiding alcohol. Seat belt usage is critical to survival if an crash occurs.



Jack Hutchinson tells students at Jessie Clark Middle School it's never too early to start the seat belt habit during a rollover simulator demonstration.

Kentucky is among 38 states and the District of Columbia that limit the number of passengers for new drivers. Under Kentucky's graduated driver's license law, a driver with a learner's permit or intermediate license can carry just one passenger – a non-relative older than 20.

"The first year of independent driving is the most dangerous that a driver will face in his or her lifetime," says Geveden. "By gradually introducing driving privileges, we give new drivers time to gain experience under safer conditions."



Steve Bowen educates students at Franklin County High School on impairment using the Fatal Vision goggles (above) while Brad Franklin demonstrates the benefits of seat belts with the rollover simulator (below).



The latest edition of **SADD Decisions**, the national newsletter for Students Against Destructive Decisions, is online at [http://www.sadd.org/newsletter/Fall08\\_Newsletter\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.sadd.org/newsletter/Fall08_Newsletter_FINAL.pdf)

Additional young driver online information:

- [www.myspace.com/kysadd](http://www.myspace.com/kysadd)
- KYSADD on Facebook
- Search "drivesmartky" on YouTube.





## Spotlight Employees

**Therese Richerson** with the Division of Highway Safety Programs began her career with state government in January 1993 with Kentucky State Police Records. Transferring to the Highway Safety Office in July 1999, she managed programs for state and local law enforcement and other organizations involved in highway safety and underage drinking prevention.

Currently in the Highway Safety Office housed in the Transportation Cabinet, Therese manages and monitors law enforcement grant recipients in the western region, and six federally funded programs for other safety related agencies throughout the state.

During her career in highway safety, Therese prepared and submitted proposals to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Office of Juvenile Justice resulting in an additional \$9.6 million for Kentucky for increased impaired driving enforcement, increased enforcement of occupant protection laws, motorcycle education campaigns and enforcement of underage drinking laws.

Therese has received numerous awards recognizing her dedication to highway safety, including the NHTSA Special Achievement Award in 1994 and 1998, Kentucky State Police 2003 Civilian Employee of the Year, Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Prevention 2004 Partner of the Year, and Mother's Against Drunk Driving Prevention 2006 Outstanding Service Award.

Therese resides in Frankfort with her husband, Jimmy, and is active in her church and community.



**Grant Program Manager  
Therese Richerson**



**TOC dispatcher Theresa Owen**

**Theresa Owen** with the Division of Incident Management dispatches for the Traffic Operations Center (TOC) and is a group administrator for the Conditions Acquisition Reporting System (CARS). She began in state government in 1999 as a dispatcher for Commercial Vehicle Enforcement before transferring to Kentucky State Police Headquarters. Returning to Transportation in 2007 as a TOC Specialist, she continued her job duties of incident reporting, dispatching for snow and ice removal, and dispatching for the SAFE Patrol.

Theresa has received numerous training and certifications, including the Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT) Telecommunications Academy, DOCJT Kentucky Incident Command System Course, Basic Telecommunicator certification from the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council, and certification to access the Law Information Network of Kentucky (LINK) and National Crime Information Center (NCIC) systems.

"Very rewarding" is how Theresa describes her job. Helping others is her top priority, whether it be keeping the roads clear for Kentucky's travelers, sending aid to a stranded motorist, or keeping SAFE Patrol operators out of harm's way as they patrol the roads. She hopes to be a part of the growth and expansion of the TOC and the Transportation Cabinet for many years to come.

Theresa is also a part-time dispatcher for Kentucky State University Police Department and resides in Frankfort with her two children and one cat.

# Mark your calendars!

DATE(S)	CAMPAIGN	SPONSOR	WEBSITE
<b>November 3-9</b>	National Drowsy Driving Prevention Week	National Sleep Foundation	<a href="http://www.drowsydriving.org">www.drowsydriving.org</a>
<b>November 17-30</b>	Occupant Protection-Thanksgiving Holiday	National Highway Traffic Safety Foundation (NHTSA)	<a href="http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov">www.nhtsa.dot.gov</a>
<b>November 25-December 31</b>	Tie One On for Safety	Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)	<a href="http://www.madd.org">www.madd.org</a>
<b>December</b>	National Drunk and Drugged Driving Month	NHTSA	<a href="http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov">www.nhtsa.dot.gov</a>
<b>December 13-31</b>	Drunk Driving. Over the Limit, Under Arrest	NHTSA	<a href="http://www.stopimpaireddriving.org">www.stopimpaireddriving.org</a>

## National news and reports

### Seat belt use hits record level in 2008

NHTSA's latest seat belt report: <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811036.PDF>

### DUI fatalities down nationwide and in 32 state

NHTSA's new statistical report on 2007 alcohol-related fatalities is drawn from the agency's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS): <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811016.PDF>

### Proposed safety rules for motorcycle helmets

NHTSA's proposal to make it easier to identify and crack down on motorcycle novelty helmets: <http://tinyurl.com/486ejm>.

### New federal rule to make school buses safer

NHTSA allows federal funds to pay for seat belt installations: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot15208.htm>

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